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OLC 70-0238

30 March 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of House Armed Services Subcommittee  
Staff on Cambodia

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1. This afternoon [ ] and I accompanied Mr. George Carver, SAVA, to meet with Messrs. Blandford and Slatinshek in response to Slatinshek's request for information on Agency reporting leading up to the Cambodian coup.

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2. Mr. Blandford opened by complaining that the Agency had apparently been "caught flatfooted" in Cambodia as we had in Libya and these intelligence failures created problems for our Subcommittees in trying to defend the Agency's record. Blandford also complained that we find ourselves in the "ridiculous situation" of knowing more about what is going on [ ] than [ ]. He said a lot of questions were being asked about why, with all the money we are spending, we can't make a better showing.

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3. Mr. Carver summarized the events leading up to the Cambodian coup, and concluded by pointing out that as a result of recommendations by [ ] supported by State Department, [ ] Blandford and Slatinshek professed amazement, Blandford remarking that "this of course explains the whole thing."

4. Mr. Blandford said that he thought our Subcommittee should know this story, and while the Director might be reluctant to take the initiative in volunteering it, they might call him in the near future and bring it out in the course of questioning.

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[ ]  
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Legislative Counsel

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